

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is requested. Claim 9 has been amended. Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 13, and 14 have been canceled. No new matter has been added. Claims 3, 9-12, and 15-18 remain in this application.

In section 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 7-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 7 and 8 have been canceled and independent claim 9 has been amended to more closely align the claim language with the Examiner's requirements.

In section 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by McCulligh (US Patent 6,643,784). Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 13, and 14 have been canceled. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection as it pertains to claims 3, 9-12, and 15-18.

Independent claims 3, 9, and 15 each call for feedback to a user regarding password validity for more than one resource. The Examiner appears to equate this language to more than one rule of McCulligh. Applicants respectfully disagree. The question of password validity can and almost always involves more than one rule, as is shown in McCulligh. However, the question of syntactic password validity becomes much more difficult when one remembers that different resources may well call for application of different groupings of rule types and even differences in rules of the same type (e.g., character length). This important distinction is recognized in Applicants' claims and in their specification. For example, lines 12-18 on page 3 of Applicants' specification describe this resource-based feature.

Also disclosed is a password validation mechanism that checks a password string against the requirements of more than one password-protected resource. For example, if a user wants to use one password to access three different resources, the disclosed password validation mechanism will validate the password string against the password requirements for each of

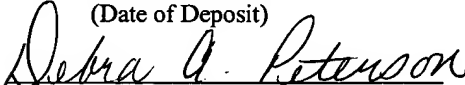
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the three resources and provide visual feedback to the user as to the success/failure of the password string for each resource. This visual feedback is provided using three different visual cues.

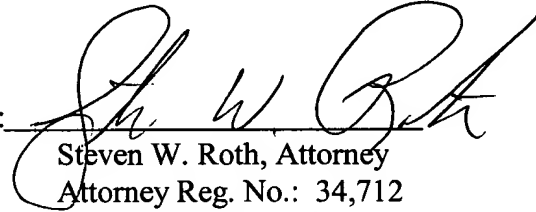
Applicants, therefore, submit that the McCulligh resource simply does not disclose password validity checking for more than one resource, and accordingly, respectfully submit that claims 3, 9-12, and 15-18 should not be held as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

In view of the foregoing comments and amendments, the Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims (i.e., claims 3, 9-12, and 15-8) are in condition for allowance and that the application should be passed to issue. The Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if, in the Examiner's opinion, such a phone conference would expedite or aid in the prosecution of this application.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

October 31, 2005
(Date of Deposit)

Debra A. Peterson

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Steven W. Roth, Attorney
Attorney Reg. No.: 34,712
IBM Corporation, Dept 917
3605 Highway 52 North
Rochester, MN 55901-7829
Telephone: (507) 253-1600